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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/717,588

Applicant(s)

KRUY ET AL.

Examiner

Greta L. Robinson

Art Unit

2168

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to an amendment filed October 17, 2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2-7 and 46-63 (now renumbered as claims 1-24).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some\*   c) ☐ None   of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application                      |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                       | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____    | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                               |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance   |
|  | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____.   |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1, 2-7 and 46-63 are pending in the present application.
2. Claims 3 and 8-45 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 46-49, 52, 57 and 59 have been amended.

### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

3. Claims 1, 2-7 and 46-63 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicant's amendment and remarks filed October 17, 2007 are found persuasive. The prior art of record fails to teach the method of searching as recited in independent claims 1, 7, 47, 52, 57 and 58. Specifically, regarding independent claim 1, the following feature is not disclosed as claimed: identifying common query language features common to all of the plurality of search providers; transmitting the common query language features to a user interface; receiving user input through the user interface to define a query for execution by the search providers based on the common query language features; parsing the query to define a single common parse tree that is transformable by each of the respective search providers based on the query language features supported by each of the respective search providers; passing the single common parse tree to at least one of the search providers to enable execution of the query by the search providers; executing the query by at least one of the search

providers. The limitations of independent claims 7 and 47 parallel the limitations of method claim 1; therefore they are allowed for similar reasons. Regarding independent claim 52, the following limitation is not disclosed: identifying common query language features common to all of the plurality of search providers; providing a user interface comprising a single common set of query fields generated based on the common query language features supported by all of the plurality of search providers; receiving user input through the user interface to define a query for execution by the search providers; parsing the query to define at least one parse tree that is transformable by at least one of the search providers; passing the at least one parse tree to at least one of the search providers to enable execution of the query by the at least one of the search providers. The limitations of independent claims 57 and 59 parallel the limitations of method claim 52; therefore they are allowed for similar reasons.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Greta L. Robinson whose telephone number is (571)272-4118. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:30AM-6:00PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tim T. Vo can be reached on (571)272-3642. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Greta Robinson  
Primary Examiner  
December 19, 2007